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ABSTRACT

This plan is intended to: summarize for the Board of Regents, the State Education Department, New York State libraries, agencies and organizations with an interest in library services, and interested citizens of the State, the goals, priorities, activities, and evaluation methodology of the programs undertaken for the improvement of library services under the Federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA); serve as a guide to library systems, libraries and consortia that wish to participate in the LSTA program; and meet the requirements of the Federal Library Services and Technology Act and the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for an August 1, 1997 filing date for a five-year plan. Goals, objectives and related information are provided in the following sections: Libraries, Library Systems and Networks in New York State; Library Funding and the Role of Federal Support; Information Access through Technology (Grants and Statewide Services); Information Empowerment through Special Services (Grants and Statewide Services); Evaluation; Administration; and Public Review and Comment. (AEF)

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New York State Library Services and Technology Act, Five-Year Plan, October 1, 1997-September 30, 2002

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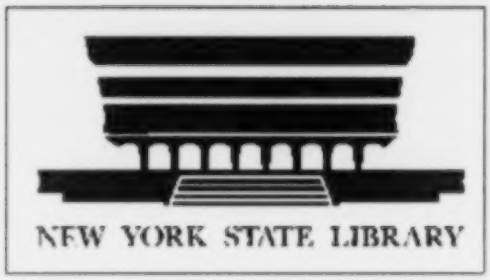

The New York State

LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT

FIVE-YEAR PLAN

October 1, 1997 - September 30, 2002

A Focused Program for the
Improvement of Library Services for the People of New York State
Utilizing Local, State, and Federal Resources

Adopted by
the Board of Regents
July 18, 1997

The University of the State of New York
The State Education Department
The New York State Library
Cultural Education Center
Albany, New York 12230
1997

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INTRODUCTION

On September 30, 1996, Congress passed and the President signed an Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act which authorized the restructuring of the Federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) into the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). The New York State Library and the LSTA Advisory Council had already begun planning to make FY 1997 a transition year to the new LSTA.

As preparation for the transition, the State Library and the Council sponsored a series of five regional meetings in January 1997, to solicit library community input on some specific questions concerning the development of a new plan. The questions related to the priorities of user needs which LSTA grant funds should address, the targeting of those funds to a few key priorities, and the matter of eligibility to apply for

funds.

After the meetings, the LSTA Advisory Council reviewed the library community input as well as strategic planning documents of the State Library's Research Library and Division of Library Development. The Council recommended to the Board of Regents a Preliminary Five-Year Plan which was submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services by the April 1, 1997 deadline. The Preliminary Plan was distributed in print form to all library systems in New York State and electronically via the State Library's Website.

In April, Library Development staff met with representatives from the library community to develop criteria for performance measures for the FY 1998 LSTA grants program. The final *FY 1998 Grant Program Guidelines* were distributed electronically at the end of May and in print form at the beginning of June. These guidelines, though based on the Preliminary Plan as submitted to IMLS in March, fit equally well under the Final Plan contained in this document.

This Plan is intended to:

- Summarize for the Board of Regents, the State Education Department, New York State libraries, agencies and organizations with an interest in library services, and interested citizens of the State, the goals, priorities, activities, and evaluation methodology of the programs undertaken for the improvement of library services under the Federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).
- Serve as a guide to library systems, libraries and consortia that wish to participate in the LSTA program.
- Meet the requirements of the Federal Library Services and Technology Act and the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for an August 1, 1997 filing date for a Five-year Plan.

LIBRARIES, LIBRARY SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS IN NEW YORK STATE

State policy on library services is strengthened and is part of Education policy because libraries are the responsibility of the Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York. The mission of the State Education Department--**"To raise the knowledge, skill, and opportunity of all the people in New York"**--provides direction for libraries, archives, museums as well as the formal educational structure of schools and colleges.

Regents policy on libraries affirms that every resident of New York State should enjoy timely and free access, through local libraries working within library systems, to a full range of informational resources and services, provided without restriction of censorship or violation of privacy.

Over 7,000 libraries serve the people of New York State. Most of these libraries are linked with others in resource sharing systems and networks. The library enterprise in New York State currently totals an annual expenditure of $1.3 billion.

Public Libraries. 741 public libraries and 322 branch libraries serve the people of New York State. Some 61 percent of the libraries (451) serve a population of fewer than 7,500 people. In the aggregate, these 451 libraries serve 1.3 million people, or seven percent of the State's population. On the other hand, three

libraries--the Brooklyn, The New York and the Queens Borough public libraries--serve more than 40 percent of the population of the State.

Public Library Systems. The 23 public library systems authorized by Education Law (dating back to 1950) have as members all but 2 of the 741 public libraries in the State. Typical functions of a public library system are: coordination of services; extension of service to all parts of the area; cooperative development of central library collections; education and in-service training; experimentation and evaluation; resource sharing through union catalog services, loan of video and other nonprint materials, interlibrary loan, interface with the New York State Interlibrary Loan (NYSILL) network and delivery service; and program development.

Reference and Research Library Resources Systems. Reference and research library resources systems are regional consortia of libraries in publicly and privately supported colleges and universities, special libraries (both in corporate and not-for-profit organizations), public library systems, and school library systems. These systems enable academic, hospital, public, law, business, and other special libraries, public library systems, and school library systems to share resources. They provide interlibrary loan, delivery, database development, reciprocal access, and other services to meet the reference and information needs of library users, students, and faculty of institutions of higher education, the professions, and others. Nine systems cover the entire State.

School Library Media Centers. New York State has over 4,100 school library media centers within school buildings operated by 707 local Boards of Education and over 2,200 school libraries in nonpublic schools.

School Library Systems. Resource sharing among school libraries has increased dramatically since 1984 when the State Legislature authorized establishment of school library systems based within the State's BOCES and Big City school districts. The 42 school library systems enable school libraries to participate in database development and resource sharing in cooperation with all types of libraries. In addition, the systems provide direction and assistance for members through continuing education programs, cooperative collection development plans, and long-range planning and self-assessment of resources, staffing, communication, and reporting in individual libraries and school districts.

College and University Libraries. The library resources of colleges and universities are an important part of the State's total library resources. New York State has more institutions of higher education than any other state except California and has the second largest student enrollment. During the 1996-97 academic year, there were 255 degree-granting institutions of higher education in the State, of which 83 were public, 141 independent, and 31 proprietary.

New York State Interlibrary Loan. The New York State Interlibrary Loan (NYSILL) program, established in 1967, is a computerized library network that assures access to the collections of the New York State Library. Requests that cannot be filled within a system or region are sent to the State Library from one of the 110 NYSILL telecommunications sites.

Government Documents Depository Libraries. The State Library (a Regional Depository for Federal publications) and the 91 selective depositories within New York State have a coordinated State plan for Federal Depository library service. It includes collection and staff development, regional cooperative acquisitions and retention, improved communications and bibliographic awareness among depositories, strengthened on-site and interlibrary loan services, and greater emphasis on publicizing the availability of Federal information.

More than 300 libraries in New York State are participants in the New York State Document Depository

Program. Libraries are chosen on the basis of location and for their ability to maintain a documents collection and make it available to the public, in accordance with responsibilities for their type of depository designation. As a result, every New York State resident can consult State government publications in a nearby library. Recent efforts have focused on the increasing amount of government information available in electronic format.

LIBRARY FUNDING AND THE ROLE OF FEDERAL SUPPORT

Libraries receive their primary funding support at the local or parent-institution level. State funds provide approximately ten percent of the support for public library service in New York State. Federal funds account for less than two percent, but these funds are critical because they serve as a catalyst for innovative and risk-taking initiatives which encourage the development of new directions in library services. The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) program in New York State, like the Federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) which preceded it, takes into account the need to utilize local, State and Federal resources in order to supplement, expand and enrich library services for all the citizens of the State. Through library systems, individual libraries which are members of systems are eligible to participate in the LSTA program.

The transition from LSCA to LSTA provides an opportunity for the New York State Library and the statewide library community to redefine the Federal role in support of library services in the Empire State. Today every library, whether public, school, academic or special, is facing a challenge to its existence in the networked environment and in a period of great corporate and government "downsizing." The State Library has identified the following as some of the most pressing needs facing libraries today:

- public policy that recognizes roles of libraries in a learning society,
- dependable support for quality library services,
- library access to telecommunications and other technologies, and
- new ways of providing services in a period in which all public services are being re-examined.

In this chaotic and transforming period, we have the opportunity to shape a new vision for the Federal support of library services throughout the State. That vision will be most compelling which concentrates on a few key objectives and which emphasizes the partnership of funds necessary to advance library services in New York.

For the five-year period October 1, 1997 through September 30, 2002, the New York State Library and the LSTA Advisory Council propose two key objectives:

1. assist libraries in New York State, including the New York State Library, to enable librarians and other staff to provide the highest possible level of electronic doorway library services; and
2. emphasize special library services which contribute to improved access to information and library services for all the people of the State.

To work toward these goals, the LSTA program in New York State will support Grants to library systems and libraries and Statewide Services through the New York State Library in the two areas of: "Information Access through Technology" and "Information Empowerment through Special Services."

INFORMATION ACCESS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Goal: An individual New Yorker of any age will be able to access a library electronically or on-site and find information and services that respond to his or her needs during a lifetime of learning.

Rapid changes in telecommunications and other technology are revolutionizing how people seek information and how libraries meet their information needs. In New York State, library systems for many years have provided a cost-efficient means to make library resources available to all the residents of the State. With more than three decades of cooperation, systems are reinventing themselves in light of current technologies. Within the context of the networked environment, the library systems and the State Library are defining new partnerships to enable all libraries to become electronic doorways for their users.

An electronic doorway library is a library of any type, size or location which uses computer and telecommunications technology, a full range of library resources, and the services of skilled librarians to meet the library and information needs of education, business, government, and people of all ages, backgrounds, interests, and abilities

- *extending services into people's homes, workplaces, and other locations,*
- *going beyond the library's walls to obtain information and resources,*
- *facilitating access by people with disabilities, and*
- *providing powerful new ways of assembling, evaluating, and using information.*

Since 1995, New York has recognized 1,991 libraries as electronic doorway libraries. The State Library and library systems are working to ensure that all the State's libraries can be so designated.

State investment, through a combination of LSTA funds and State aid, will assist library systems, libraries which are members of systems, and the New York State Library to participate in projects that promote library services that provide all users access to information through State, regional, national and international electronic networks and stimulate excellence and access to learning and information resources in all types of libraries for people of all ages.

Libraries and library systems in New York State are central to the task of organizing, providing access to, and delivering information needed by citizens on a daily basis. From the child learning to read to the independent researcher using primary sources, people use libraries of all types more easily because of the skill of librarians and because of the resource sharing networks that have evolved over the last thirty years. Those networks are affected today by changes in telecommunications and computer technology that make access to information both easier and more complex.

Through the Grants program administered by Library Development and through Statewide Services provided through Library Development and the Research Library, library systems and their member libraries participate in furthering the Regents goal of providing all New Yorkers access to information.

GRANTS

Grants will be available in the categories of Electronic Content and Training for Technology. There is no specific category focused on the infrastructure (i.e., hardware and software) itself, although there may be infrastructure components within Electronic Content and Training for Technology.

- The intent is to use LSTA funds in ways that emphasize access to electronic content, the development of new content, and the ability to evaluate and use that content. Other sources of funds, local, State and Federal, are available, or becoming available, to continue to build the technology infrastructure of libraries.

In the spring of 1997, teams of State Library staff developed grant criteria and draft guidelines for these two categories. Then the teams met with library field representatives to identify performance measures for evaluation of all technology projects.

Following are some general points which are expected to characterize the five-year grants program:

- Multi-year projects will be considered although funded for only one year at a time.
- For multi-year projects, funding will be reduced each subsequent year by a certain percentage.
- Planning grants are encouraged, particularly for collaborative, multi-year projects and for applicants that have not heretofore been eligible for Federal library grants under New York's program.
- For all equipment and software components over $1,000, a 35% match is required.

All library systems will be eligible to apply in these categories. Eligibility criteria for all categories will be reviewed annually.

During the five-year term of this Plan, the State Library may extend eligibility for application to any member of The University of the State of New York.

Electronic Content

The purpose of this category is to enable libraries to provide library resources in electronic format for local, regional, statewide and global access and to create value-added information products which package information available in libraries or link the user to other electronic sources. Projects in this category will involve library systems, libraries, and librarians as producers or creators of content and providers of access to it.

Using grant funds in this category, the State Library will administer a pilot project offering statewide access to selected databases. This project will be developed with the assistance of a field committee representing the different types of libraries that will have access. This pilot may be considered as a test of database use that will give libraries, as well as the State Library, an opportunity to evaluate electronic databases. Small libraries in particular could show their communities what electronic access can provide.

At some point in the five years of this first plan, the State Library may target funds for a specific invitational project involving electronic content development.

Training for Technology

For libraries to provide excellent library service to their users in a rapidly changing technological environment, the library staff must have access to an ongoing training program in all aspects of technology. In some libraries users are demanding more and more training, and library staff should be able to meet their demands. Training programs need to be multi-level in order to meet a range of needs, from general awareness of technology to the most advanced knowledge.

Library Development encourages the development of competencies in: identifying, evaluating, and using

electronic information resources to meet the information and research needs of customers; and utilizing and understanding the infrastructure to effectively deliver electronic information resources. The development and maintenance of competencies requires a supportive environment for training and re-training library staff and users.

Projects in this category may target library staff and/or users for technology training. These projects must be presented in the context of a training plan, either in place or being developed. Systems will be invited to apply for funds to develop new training methodologies which can be used throughout the State.

STATEWIDE SERVICES

Library Development

The Library Development Team will provide leadership and guidance for the planning and coordinated development of library services for a networked electronic environment for the people of the State as part of its commitment to assist all libraries to become electronic doorways for their users. To carry out this objective, the Team members will:

a. Work with the library community and its supporters throughout the State to ensure that all libraries have the financial support to serve their users as electronic doorways to information locally, statewide, nationally and worldwide.

b. Administer grants to libraries and library systems under the LSTA technology category and under the State-aided Regional Bibliographic Databases Program, and the Electronic Doorway Library (EDL) Initiative.

c. Provide advisory services to library systems and libraries on the further development of their resources and services in a networked electronic environment, and on the preservation of and access to endangered information resources.

d. Provide a comprehensive library data collection and dissemination program that uses current technologies to make information broadly accessible to the library community and the public.

e. Work with the library community and others to develop continuing EDL action plans.

f. Work with SED's Office of Technology Policy, the New York Library Association and others on:

- recommendations from the study of knowledge and competency skills needed by library staff to provide EDL services;
- planning for and implementing New York's plan for schools and libraries under the Telecommunications Act of 1996;
- implementing the Technology Literacy Challenge Grants Program.

Research Library

The New York State Research Library, a prototype Electronic Doorway Library, will provide statewide services to libraries and individuals, making information available for scholarship and interlibrary loan, providing reference service on-site and via the Internet, particularly in the areas of government information, law, medicine, history, and technology. To carry out these objectives, the New York State

Research Library will:

a. Improve access to government information and unique or unusual materials and collections for libraries and independent researchers through its online integrated catalog/information system, Excelsior and other electronic information resources.

b. Provide interlibrary loan and reference and information service to improve access to unique or unusual collections onsite or, for remote clients, through e-mail and other modes of communication.

c. Improve access to all kinds of government information through the Information Locator Service, a unique online Internet-based directory functioning as an electronic doorway for helping people determine where to go to get access to services and information resources available from State agencies, the State Legislature, and the State judicial system.

d. Provide a gateway to databases, like the GPO Access on the Web, which offers boolean searching and full-text access to selected Federal government databases for citizens and libraries in the State.

e. Work with Library Development to design and implement a statewide pilot project providing access to selected bibliographic and full-text databases.

f. Form partnerships with other comprehensive research libraries in New York State to create a New York State digital library of materials relevant to New York State history, commerce, economic development, and other State-related topics that would be available electronically for citizens and libraries in the State.

g. Continue partnerships with customer groups such as the Business Council, Chambers of Commerce, the Association of Mayors, and the Association of Towns to target client groups, identify key information needs, and work with them to provide access to the information, primarily through electronic means.

h. Work collaboratively with the Temporary State Commission on Geographic Information Systems, dataset owners, and customer groups to identify dataset needs of organizations looking for collaborators, assist users in locating and using geospatial data, and cooperate with dataset owners and others to ensure coordination and communication and economy of use of GIS information.

INFORMATION EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SPECIAL SERVICES

Goal: All New Yorkers, regardless of age or ability, will have access to library resources and services that advance and enhance their lives.

Libraries empower people and library services must be dynamic and responsive to the changing needs of people of all ages and all abilities. A diverse state such as New York, which has both large numbers of people to be served in densely-populated urban areas as well as large geographic areas with smaller numbers of people, requires a complex network of library services to assist all citizens of the State to locate and use information and services that will help to advance their lives in many ways.

Library services for children and young adults are necessary to the future of the State and the nation.

Children who read outside of school and whose parents and caregivers encourage them to read are more likely to do well in school. Children who read throughout the summer are more likely to retain the reading gains which they make each school year. School libraries and public libraries are extremely important in the learner's formative years, and public libraries continue to be important throughout a person's life.

Adults must have access to and opportunities for lifelong learning to meet the educational and work-related challenges of our increasingly complex and competitive world. Libraries and library systems throughout the State are an integral part of the complex and diverse delivery system that addresses the broad information and literacy needs of adults. More than four million residents of New York State need assistance to improve their reading and writing skills. Because of the changes which technology is making in our society, the evolving definition of literacy has expanded to include ever higher levels of reading, writing and mathematics, as well as computer literacy. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) is especially important in New York State since the State is a port of entry for new immigrants, and some 25 major languages, from Arabic to Yiddish, are spoken by nearly four million people. In New York City alone an average of over 40,000 people are on waiting lists for ESOL instruction.

Both the grants program and the statewide services work of the State Library staff will provide many opportunities to determine the specific needs of New Yorkers in the areas of improving literacy and job readiness skills and the roles that libraries can play in filling these needs as well as contributing to the general economic improvement of New York State.

GRANTS

Grants in this area will emphasize the role that public libraries and public library systems play in promoting Adult and Family Literacy and Economic Opportunity to help people of all ages, including those with disabilities, achieve more independent lives. The target populations can be children, families, young adults and adults in both urban and rural areas.

In the spring of 1997, teams of State Library staff developed grant criteria and draft guidelines for the categories of "Adult/Family Literacy" and "Economic Opportunity." Then the teams met with library field representatives to identify performance measures for evaluation of all Special Services projects.

Each of these categories requires a significant level of collaboration with other organizations and groups within local communities. Project activities may include the actual beginning of collaboration and/or the expansion of it. It is important for public libraries and library systems to cultivate local resources as those organizations can help public libraries reach their target groups, and the same organizations can be a vital force in spreading the mission of the public library.

Following are some general points which are expected to characterize the five-year grants program:

- Multi-year projects will be considered although funded for only one year at a time.
- For multi-year projects, funding will be reduced each subsequent year by a certain percentage.
- Planning grants are encouraged, particularly for collaborative, multi-year projects and for applicants that have not heretofore been eligible for Federal library grants under New York's program.
- For all equipment and software components over $1,000, a match of 35% is required.

All public library systems will be eligible to apply from the first year of the plan. In FY 1998, the 21 Central and Co-Central Libraries that are not also library systems will be eligible to apply. Eligibility

criteria for all categories will be reviewed annually.

Adult Literacy/Family Literacy

The purpose of this category is to enable public libraries to provide programs and services that promote the improvement of literacy skills for people of all ages. **Adult literacy** projects may be targeted to unemployed and underemployed persons, welfare recipients, teen parents, recent immigrants, non-English speakers, high school drop-outs, older adults, individual with disabilities and incarcerated persons. **Family literacy** projects may be targeted to pre-school children with parents of low literacy levels, targeted groups in communities with low reading scores in schools, teen parents and young adults, families with children with developmental delays, and families without access to computer technology.

Library Development will continue to support a **Statewide Summer Reading Program** through an annual grant to one public library system for development work for a statewide theme with supporting materials. The applicant is expected to work with an advisory committee which will include Library Development's Youth Services Consultant as well as other public library system and public library representatives.

Economic Opportunity

The purpose of this category is to enable public libraries to assist individuals to develop job-readiness skills and to help individuals, starting their own businesses and small businesses already started, find the business information resources they need to prosper. Among the many possible target groups for **economic opportunity** services and partnerships are: unemployed and underemployed, low-literate and non-English speaking persons, welfare reform target groups, people with disabilities, those working from home and in cottage industries, employers, business community, community-based organizations, churches, and volunteer groups such as SCORE and RSVP.

STATEWIDE SERVICES

Library Development

The Library Development Team will provide leadership and guidance to help libraries and library systems provide access to library resources and services that advance and enhance the lives of all New Yorkers. To carry out this objective, the Team will:

a. Work with libraries and library systems to help them provide high quality, cost effective services that meet the needs of their communities.

b. Work for public policy that acknowledges and supports the roles of libraries in a learning society.

c. Support libraries' and archives' efforts to preserve and make available information of enduring significance for the use of present and future generations.

d. Work with SED's Welfare Reform Workgroup, New York State Literacy Volunteers of America, Laubach Literacy International, the Center for Family Resources and others to promote the library's role in improving literacy skills.

e. Administer grants to library systems and libraries under the LSTA Special Services category and under the State-aided Coordinated Outreach Services Program, Corrections Program, Adult Literacy Program, Parent-Child Services Program, Conservation/Preservation Program and other State-aided programs which extend access to library resources and services for all New Yorkers now and in the

future.

f. Provide advisory services to library systems and libraries on the further development of their resources and special services.

g. Work with SED, the Department of Labor and other organizations on planning for and implementing New York's plan for a re-engineered Workforce Development System.

h. Collect and disseminate information in print and electronic formats which further the development of special services.

i. Work with the library community and others to plan and implement statewide and local events that encourage reading, including the Statewide Summer Reading Program and the Great New York ReadAloud.

Research Library

The Research Library is a major research library for those lacking easy access to research libraries. Especially for government information and unique collections, the Research Library provides access and mediation in the use of important information regardless of the user's location in the State. To carry out this objective, the Library will:

a. Build coalitions with outside customer groups to identify unmet information needs of persons in rural, underserved or inner-city areas.

b. Form partnerships with other key information providers to improve access to needed information and publicize the Library's collections and services throughout the State.

c. Collect and provide access electronically or through interlibrary loan to high-interest materials in such areas as law, consumer protection and health information.

d. Refine navigational aids to improve access for this clientele to electronic information and provide convenient access to government and customized information through the Library's Web site.

EVALUATION

During the spring of 1997, the New York State Library worked with teams composed of State Library staff and members of the library community to develop guidelines and performance measures for the several categories in the competitive grants program. These will be applied to the grants program for FY 1998 and their effectiveness evaluated annually while the categories continue. As changes are made in the grants program in subsequent years, a similar approach will be used to develop guidelines and performance measures. The aim is to have all applicants in a given category using similar evaluation measures to judge their performance.

For Statewide Services, many efforts are currently underway in both Library Development and the Research Library to measure customer satisfaction and the need for specific services. As those results are studied, both units of the State Library expect to make changes in the programs and services provided. These changes will be incorporated into the annual review of the LSTA plan with the LSTA Advisory

Council.

To prepare for the independent evaluation of the activities carried out under the five-year plan, the State Library will appoint a planning team by the end of the first year. This team will be composed of State Library staff, members of the LSTA Advisory Council, members of the library community representing all types of libraries and library supporters or stakeholders. The team's charge will be to plan for the independent evaluation, design a request for proposal, review the applicant consultants and recommend names to the State Library. The team may also provide advice to the State Library on implementing the evaluation.

ADMINISTRATION

The New York State Library, with the assistance of several offices within the State Education Department, will administer the LSTA program at the State level. The objectives are to: administer the State Plan and its program objectives in accordance with all financial and reporting requirements; continue to develop and expand a program for extending and improving library services effectively utilizing LSTA funds; and collect and disseminate information about programs and services to the library community. To carry out these objectives the State Library will:

a. Administer and monitor a competitive grants program and statewide services, including: planning and coordinating the grant review process; offering consultant services to improve grant applications; conducting on-site visits and evaluations of grant projects; and ongoing evaluation of statewide services.

b. Work with the New York State Education Department to establish and maintain fiscal controls and accounting procedures as necessary to assure proper disbursement of, and accounting of funds; it will also develop and submit reports to the Institute of Museum and Library Services as required.

c. Request the Board of Regents to appoint a statewide Advisory Council to advise on the development of, and policy matters relating to, administration of the State Plan and to assist the agency in evaluating library programs, services and activities under the State Plan.

d. Collect and disseminate information in agency publications and other appropriate publications, both print and electronic format, about LSTA and other programs and projects.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

Both the State Library staff and the LSTA Advisory Council recognize that much further discussion with customers is required as this Five-Year Plan becomes fully operational in FY 1998 and as it is reviewed and revised annually over the next five years. Library Development expects to use a variety of ways of securing library community and public comment from the moment the Plan is submitted to the Regents for approval and each subsequent year.

After the Five-Year Plan has been reviewed and approved by the LSTA Advisory Council in June, it will be forwarded to the Board of Regents for final review and approval at the July meeting. The Plan will be sent to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) before the August 1 deadline.

Once the Plan has been forwarded to the Regents, it will be posted on the State Library's Home Page for public review and comment. Print copies will be mailed to all library systems in New York with the request that they distribute the Plan to their individual members.

In the fall of 1997, the LSTA Plan will be distributed in print form to all libraries with the draft Electronic Doorway Library (EDL) Action Plan and comments requested.

Library Development will also ask specific groups, such as the Outreach advisory councils of public library systems, various literacy organizations such as LVA of New York, and others to comment on the Plan.

Finally, there will be wide posting (in print and electronically) of the fact that the Plan is available from the State Library and that copies will be sent to anyone on request.

Those with comments or questions about this Plan should call or write:

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At the end of this document is a list of the members of the LSTA Advisory Council and other members of the Research Library and Library Development staff who will also respond to questions.

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Go to Library Development

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Comments to nyslweb@unix2.nysed.gov
URL: http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/5yrplan.htm